

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 250761 TOSEC 160190

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, EVENING, TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 21

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

NO. 15

NEWSPAPERS:

1. CHITRIBUNE - NO KISSINGER STORY IN TUESDAY EDITION.
2. LA TIMES (TIMES WIRE SERVICES): FIRST DAY'S DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN KISSINGER AND TENG WERE DESCRIBED BY AN
AMERICAN OFFICIAL AS "FRANK AND CORDIAL."

TENG SAYS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN QUITE A FEW CHANGES IN PAST
ELEVEN MONTHS AND IT DID NOT MATTER IF "WE QUARREL A BIT."
BOTH SIDES HAVE STRESSED PRIVATELY THAT IT IS IN THEIR
INTEREST TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.

DIPLOMATS DOUBT THAT MAO WILL SEE KISSINGER THIS TIME. MAO
IS BEING SAVED FOR PRESIDENT FORD.

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KISSINGER WAS SEEN DOZING DURING EVENING OPERA.

WIRES:

1. AP (FREED) IN TWO AFTERNOON FILINGS FREED REPORTS "SURPRISE MEETING" WITH MAO. INVITATION TO THE SESSION CAME WITHOUT WARNING AND CAUSED KISSINGER TO MISS BUSH'S PLANNED RECEPTION AND A PRIVATE DINNER.

"A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WOULD NOT PROVIDE ANY MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON THE SESSION, SAYING ONLY THAT 'THE SECRETARY FOUND THE MEETING VERY USEFUL.'" IN LATER FILING, FREED AMENDS HIS REPORT: "BOTH AMERICAN AND CHINESE SPOKESMEN DECLINED TO GIVE ANY DETAILS..."

"KISSINGER'S MAJOR OBJECT ... HAS BEEN TO CONVINCE THE CHINESE OF AMERICAN STRENGTH ... AND THAT U.S. HAS NOT BEEN FOOLED INTO COMPLACENCY BY THE SOVIET UNION."

KISSINGER CALLED OFF A PROMISED BACKGROUNDER, "PRE-SUMABLY BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO BE QUESTIONED ABOUT THE MAO MEETING."

2. UPI (GROWALD) MAO "CALLED IN" KISSINGER TODAY AND WARNED AGAINST DANGERS OF SOVIET DETENTE, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES. MAO SUMMONED KISSINGER IN A "SURPRISE MOVE," WHILE KISSINGER WAS TALKING WITH TENG AND CHIAO.

"DIPLOMATS SAID MAO BESTOWED THE RARE GESTURE OF AN AUDIENCE," IN PART, TO "DRAMATIZE UNHAPPINESS OVER AMERICA'S DETENTE POLICY."

"THE SUMMONS CAME WITH SUCH SUDDENESS THAT KISSINGER WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND A DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION HE WAS GIVING FOR 2,000 PERSONS," INCLUDING SOVIETS.

AN "AMERICAN SOURCE" SAID KISSINGER AND TENG HAD FAILED TO REACH ANY UNDERSTANDING ON DETENTE, EUROPE AND ASIA, BUT A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE SECRETARY FOUND THE MAO MEETING VERY USEFUL.

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NO AGREEMENT COULD BE FOUND ON KOREA, VIETNAM AND THE HELSINKI SUMMIT.

CHINESE HAVE REPORTED "A WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS" WERE DISCUSSED "IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE" WHILE MAO SENT HIS REGARDS TO FORD.

NETWORKS:

1. ABC EVENING NEWS: (SECOND ITEM)

REASONER: MAO TODAY SENT HIS REGARDS TO PRESIDENT FORD;
THAT'S ALL SEEN AS A SIGN THAT THE CHINESE ARE HAPPY
WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT SO FAR. A U.S.
SPOKESMAN CALLED THE TALKS VERY USEFUL.

WHEN KISSINGER WAS SUMMONED TO THE MEETING AT MAO'S
PEKING HOME, HE WAS IN THE MIDST OF HIS THIRD MEETING
WITH DEPUTY PREMIER HSIAO-P'ING TENG. THE DEPUTY
PREMIER ALSO WENT TO THE MEETING. NOT MUCH IS KNOWN
ABOUT TENG, BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT HE HAS GROWING POWER
IN CHINA.

KOPPEL: HE IS PRACTICALLY UNKNOWN IN THE WEST, EXCEPT
TO CHINA SPECIALISTS. BUT TENG IS TODAY CERTAINLY ONE
OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN CHINA AND TO ALL INTENTS AND
PURPOSES, HE APPEARS TO BE THE MAN WHO IS PRESENTLY
RUNNING THE SHOW. MAO TSE-TUNG IS IN HIS LATE 80S,
AND IN POOR HEALTH; CHOU EN-LAI HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED
FOR MONTHS. ALTHOUGH TENG HAS BEEN A PART OF THE
COMMUNIST CHINESE POWER STRUCTURE SINCE ITS EARLIEST
DAYS OF STRUGGLE, HIS IS PERHAPS THE MOST UNUSUAL COME-
BACK STORY SINCE RICHARD NIXON WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1968.

IN APRIL OF 1967 TENG HSIAO-P'ING FELL VICTIM TO THE
CULTURAL REVOLUTION. CHAIRMAN MAO COMPLAINED THAT HSIAO
NEVER BOTHERED TO CONSULT WITH HIM. MEMBERS OF THE
RED GUARD WHO WERE THEN SWEEPING THROUGH CHINA LIKE AN
ANGRY SCOURGE, ACCUSED TENG OF BEING A BRIDGE ADDICT,
THAT IN FACT HE SET UP CARD CLUBS IN PEKING TO PLAY
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BRIDGE WITH OTHER LEADING CADRE. TENG DISAPPEARED
AND DIDN'T REEMERGE UNTIL APRIL 1973; APPARENTLY HIS
SKILL AS A BUREAUCRAT AND HIS REPUTATION AS A PRAGMATIC
MODERATE ACCOUNTED FOR HIS RETURN TO FAVOR. AS A
PROTEGE OF CHOU EN-LAI, TENG WAS REHABILITATED, AND
WITHIN TWO YEARS HE HAS ATTAINED MORE POWER AND
PRESTIGE THAN EVER BEFORE.

2. NBC NIGHTLY NEWS:(FOURTH ITEM)

CHANCELLOR: THERE WAS SOME INTERESTING NEWS FROM THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD TODAY. IN PEKING MAO TSE-TUNG
AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER MET FOR AN HOUR AND
FORTY MINUTES. IT WAS A SURPRISE MEETING AND KEPT
KISSINGER FROM ATTENDING A COCKTAIL PARTY HE THREW
FOR THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. KISSINGER HAD INVITED

SOVIET DIPLOMATS AND THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT THE

MEETING WITH MAO WAS TIMED TO KEEP KISSINGER FROM
RAISING A GLASS WITH THE RUSSIANS.

3. CBS EVENING NEWS:

DUE TO TECHNICAL FAILURE, VERBATIM OF SHORT CRONKITE PIECE
NOT AVAILABLE. SUMMARY FOLLOWS:

SECRETARY KISSINGER HELD A RECEPTION FOR 2,000 MEMBERS
OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY INCLUDING SOVIET EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIVES. BUT KISSINGER HIMSELF WAS NOT ABLE TO
ATTEND BECAUSE AT THE LAST MOMENT HE WAS SUMMONED TO
A SURPRISE MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG AND WAS
WHISKED AWAY TO MAO'S HOME. AFTER THE MEETING, KISSINGER
SAID THAT MAO APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH BUT DECLINED
TO FURNISH ANY DETAILS OF THEIR DISCUSSION.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: SELECTIONS OF BACKPAGE
EDITORIAL FROM TUESDAY'S EDITION FOLLOW:

"IT IS IRONIC THAT THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN
SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS -- TAIWAN -- IS NOT SPARKING
ANY HEADLINES DURING THE KISSINGER VISIT TO PEKING.
THERE CANNOT BE A FULL NORMALIZATION OF THOSE RELATIONS
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UNTIL THAT ISSUE IS SETTLED.

YET THE CHINESE LEADERS HAVE NOT BEEN PRESSING THE
MATTER....

AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE AMERICAN EFFORT IN VIET-NAM,
CHINA, NO LESS THAT THE U.S., WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE
POSSIBLE DESTABILIZATION OF ASIA IF AMERICAN MILITARY
FORCES BEGAN WITHDRAWING FROM THE REGION. IT DIDN'T
WANT TO CREATE ANY VACUUMS INTO WHICH THE RUSSIANS MIGHT
MOVE. HENCE THE CONSTANT THEME IN PEKING THAT THE
U.S. MUST REMAIN MILITARILY STRONG -- IN ASIA AND
EUROPE ...

BUT THERE IS PERHAPS ANOTHER CALCULATION IN CHINESE
THINKING. THAT CONCERN IS ABOUT THE AMERICAN POLITICAL
SITUATION....

NOT ONLY RIGHT-WING CONSERVATIVES NOW OPPOSE ANY MOVE
ON TAIWAN. LEFT-WING LIBERALS LIKEWISE SAY THE U.S. MUST
BE CAREFUL NOT TO PREJUDICE ITS INTERESTS THERE.

GIVEN THIS MOOD, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE PRESIDENT
TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT OF THE TAIWAN QUESTION WHICH

HE COULD SELL POLITICALLY. IN FACT, ANY AGREEMENT,
ALONG WITH SUCH ISSUES AS THE PANAMA CANAL, COULD CAUSE
HIM ACUTE TROUBLE IN CONGRESS.

SOME VOICES IN WASHINGTON ARGUE THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER
TO GRAPPLE WITH THE PROBLEM WHILE CHAIRMAN MAO AND
PREMIER CHOU ARE STILL ON THE SCENE, SINCE THEY ARE
COMMITTED TO A RAPPROCHEMENT WITH WASHINGTON ...

WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT ITS COUNTERBALANCING TIE WITH
PEKING MAKES THE RUSSIANS BEHAVE LESS AGGRESSIVELY,
JUST AS MOSCOW BELIEVES DETENTE WITH THE WEST HELPS
KEEP CHINA OFF BALANCE....

.. THE NAME OF THE AMERICAN GAME: AN EVENHANDED POSTURE
TOWARD BOTH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. THAT IS WHY IT
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IS IMPORTANT FOR PRESIDENT TO JOURNEY TO PEKING."

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